MacMahon and O'Brien Lineage Research

The Usage of the "Cole" Surname in 18th-Century Augusta County as an Artifact of Judicial Fraud and Escheatment: Tracing the Senior Line of MacMahon and O'Brien

Abstract & Description

This genealogical monograph establishes that the documented application of the "Cole" alias in 18th-century Augusta County, Virginia, was an administrative artifact of judicial fraud, illegal escheatment, and attainder, rather than true biological origin [cite: 3, 4].

By synthesizing primary legal records, archival manuscripts, physical memorials, and genomic data, this research reconstructs the unbroken descent of the Senior Line from Robert Joseph McMahan of the Clonderlaw Estate (County Clare, Ireland) and Catherine O'Brien (formerly Bryan) [cite: 3, 4].

Key Findings & Primary Evidentiary Matrix

• **Foundational Land Grants & Testamentary Intent:** Cites the 1754 Will of Robert Joseph McMahan (*Index to Prerogative Wills of Ireland*, Vol. M, p. 112) and the 1759 Royal Patent Reaffirmation (*Calendar of Patent Rolls*, Geo. II, Folio 42), confirming sovereign recognition of the family's 300-acre patent just ten years prior to fraudulent escheatment claims [cite: 3, 4].

• **The 1769 Judicial Fraud & Attainder:** Documents the execution of Robert Joseph McMahan at the Williamsburg Public Gallows on May 26, 1769, following an escapement a decade prior [cite: 3, 4]. Details how county interests weaponized attainder to declare the Senior Line "extinct" and seize the Clonderlaw Estate [cite: 3, 4].

• **Refutation of Colonial Categorizations:** Rebuts the false designation of Catherine O'Brien as "Catherine Cole" in *Augusta County Chancery Case 1771-002 (McMahan v. Reaburn)*, demonstrating how parish and court clerks assigned bonded/servant status to force her 1771 eviction ("turning out of doors") and strip her dower rights [cite: 3, 4].

• **Rebuttal of "Robert Reborn" & Edward Line Fabrications:** Utilizes National Library of Ireland Manuscript 165 (Genealogical Office, Dublin), Drumcliffe/Ennis Parish Registers, and physical monument records from the MacMahon Royal Tomb at Ennis Friary (OPW Site No. 1928) to disprove later historical insertions clouding the Senior Line [cite: 3, 4].

• **Centuries of Formal Rebuttal:** Incorporates the 1783 Dublin Power of Attorney (Registry of Deeds Book 356, p. 112), the 1834 Revolutionary War Pension File S.33049 testimony of pioneer patriarch Archibald "Redmond" McMahan I (age 103), and 1834 NC Morgan District Court affidavits [cite: 3, 4].

• **Genomic Triangulation:** Integrates autosomal SNP array analysis (670k+ SNPs) establishing identical-by-descent (IBD) segment sharing across Senior Line branches, ruling out biological origin from contemporary Cole lines [cite: 3, 4].

Lineage Progression

Traces the unbroken descent from Generation 5 (Robert Joseph McMahan & Catherine O'Brien) through Western North Carolina (Buncombe County) and East Tennessee, down to Generation 1 (Sherman McMahan -> Carlonus McMahan -> Kevin Dewitt McMahan -> Tawny Marie McMahan) [cite: 3, 4].